ATLATZI RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2003

Approved by:

Date: March 25/03

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Date: Mar 31/03

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ATLATZI RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Purpose Statement

Ecological reserves are areas selected to preserve representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The key goal of ecological reserves is to contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity and the protection of genetic materials. All consumptive resource uses and the use of motorized vehicles are prohibited. Research and educational activities may be carried out but only under permit.

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Atlatzi River Ecological Reserve is to preserve unusual lodgepole pine, sitka spruce, and alder swamps and associated open wetlands in a coastal alluvial landscape. Located on the central mainland coast, 10 kilometres north of the head of Kingcome Inlet, the ecological reserve was protected in conjunction with Kingcome River Ecological Reserve, which is two kilometres away on the floor of the Kingcome River valley. Mountains adjacent to the two ecological reserves rise to 1700 meters, but those at the headwaters of the Kingcome River are among the highest in the province. Proximity to the centre of origin of the heaviest glaciers in British Columbia resulted in pronounced glacial scouring, isostatic depression and marine flooding, and the persistence of glacial environments until a relatively late date. This resulted in a relatively broad and low-gradient valley being formed. This type of physical environment and its associated wetlands and ecosystems are unusual in the Coast Mountains.

The area has fairly extensive stands of lodgepole pine in a fen-swamp environment. A great variety of wetland communities occur here, from open wetlands to treed swamp communities. What distinguishes Atlatzi Reserve from Kingcome is that it has less open fen but equally large hardhack swamps, surrounded by lodgepole pine bog forest which gives way to mixed woods containing cottonwood, red alder, sitka spruce, and hemlock. The two ecological reserves are outstanding for their unusual diversity of swamps, associated fens and pine bog land in a coastal valley bottom. In addition, the area is excellent habitat for both black and grizzly bears.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of natural and cultural values	➢ Encourage research of vertebrate and invertebrate fauna, rare plant species, and assessment of bear habitat. ➢ Undertake a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.
Adjacent land uses such as forest harvesting, silverculture, road building, and a road corridor may impact the conservation values of the ecological reserve (especially the hydrology)	➢ Work with Interfor, Scott Paper and Ministry of Forests to ensure adjacent logging activities do not impact the ecological reserve. ➢ Encourage more formal monitoring and recruit Volunteer Warden.
Lack of awareness of the ecological reserve	➢ Install boundary signage.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Minimal contribution (0.49%) to the representation of the Northern Pacific Ranges Ecosection (NPR), which is severely under represented in the protected areas system (PAS) at 1.7%. Atlatzi River Ecological Reserve is one of eight protected areas that contribute to the representation of NPR.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Minimal contribution (0.19%) to the representation of CWHvm1, which is under represented in the PAS at 7%.
Special Features	☒	Unique plant communities
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Important grizzly bear corridor (blue-listed)
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Unique plant communities; bogs

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☐	Not Applicable
travel corridor	☐	Not Applicable
local recreation	☐	Not Applicable
Special Opportunities	☐	Not Applicable
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Offsite – plant communities

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values unknown
Special Feature	☐	None known at this time

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of ecological reserves in coastal British Columbia
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Vulnerable to adjacent land uses

Relationship to other Strategies ☐ Not Applicable

Area: 256 hectares

Date of establishment: July 27, 1972